



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Last fall, I told you about UNM's [Guiding Principles](#) that were developed by students, faculty, and staff campus-wide. The principles are not a blunt instrument for judging others. Rather, they are touchstones to help us as individuals. We all aspire to be better, and I am glad that we have these simple yet strong statements to guide our plans and actions. As we strive to advance our mission in a time of many challenges, we will keep these principles at the forefront:

- Freedom of Inquiry – We encourage, protect, and respect the exploration of ideas and their free expression.
- Integrity – We build trust through transparency, truthfulness, and responsibility.
- Inclusiveness and Respect – We thrive in a diverse environment characterized by respectful regard for other persons, recognition of their dignity, and considered use of influence and power.
- Responsibility to Community – We reflect upon our past, serve our present, and strive to improve our future through thoughtful stewardship of our cultures and environment.

### Student Advocacy and Support

This is a stressful time of year for students. Students are studying for finals, completing projects, and for those who will be graduating, preparing for life after college. I want to remind every student of the support services ready to help students year-round.

UNM has a multitude of resource, advocacy and support centers, established with the primary goal of helping our student body. From our academic support services like [Center for Academic Program Support \(CAPS\)](#), [College Enrichment and Outreach Programs \(CEOP\)](#) and [Graduate Resource Center](#), to health and well-being service centers like the [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) and [Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\)](#) – flu season may be over, but end-of-semester stress can take a toll on the body.

For our soon-to-be alumni, in addition to helping current students, our [Office of Career Services](#) and our [Office of Alumni Relations](#) will continue to support you as an alum.

I want to especially call attention to centers that provide support to specific communities in a way that only they can. Tailored resources and cultural, academic, and social support and understanding are provided by programs such as the [Veterans Resources Center](#), [LGBTQ Resource Center](#), [Women's Resource Center](#), [Accessibility Resource Center](#), [American Indian Student Services](#), [African American Student Services](#) and [El Centro de la Raza](#).

Students who take advantage of the services provided by these centers tend to do better academically than those who don't, and often say they feel better overall about their time at UNM. I commend the dedicated staff and student peers who provide these crucial services, and encourage more students to utilize them.

### **Office of Equal Opportunity Open House**

The [Office of Equal Opportunity \(OEO\)](#) will host an [open house this Wednesday](#), May 4, from 8:30 to 11:30 am. This is an opportunity to get acquainted with OEO and meet the staff. While you are there, you can have a chair massage and breakfast burritos during your busy end of the year schedule.

### **Stonewall Achievement Award**

Congratulations to LGBTQ Resource Director Alma Rosa Silva-Bañuelos, who received Albuquerque Pride's ["Stonewall Achievement Award"](#) for making changes that benefit the LGBTQ community through advocacy, education and political change. This award is a great reflection on your dedication to the LGBTQ community on and off campus.

### **Nizhoni Days**

American Indian culture is an important part of our community. The American Indian Student Services office supports a large part of our student population, alongside other Native student organizations and departments on campus. Thank you to all who helped to organize Nizhoni Days, a week-long celebration of American Indian culture and education. Community forums and great speaker sessions made this celebration a great success.

### **Generation Rx**

Many of our students and faculty are looking for solutions to societal issues we face - answers to questions that may not have even asked yet. They are researching and innovating to improve the world we live in, and the lives in and outside our own community.

A couple of weeks ago, one program in UNM's [College of Pharmacy was recognized by the FBI](#) for its approach to the very relevant topic of prescription drug abuse in the state. Congratulations to [Generation Rx](#), a student led education outreach prevention program, which received the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award. This program exemplifies academic programs going outside of the classroom to make a difference in the world around us.

## Student Scholars

Congratulations to four UNM students recently recognized through two renowned scholarship programs.

Two students were awarded Fulbright Scholarships, “the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide.”

- Jenna Hagengruber, ASUNM president graduating this May, received the scholarship for an English teaching assistantship in Bosnia
- Maureen Meyer, earned M.S. in Geography from UNM in 2014, received the scholarship for a research grant in Cameroon

The [Udall Foundation](#) also announced scholarship winners last week, which included one UNM student. [Melodie Meyer](#), a junior majoring in Native American Studies, was one of 60 students selected based on her demonstrated leadership in the area Tribal Policy and Environmental Issues. [Robert Jones](#) was also recognized with an honorable mention from the Udall Foundation.

## The Popejoy Awards

Popejoy Hall is a cornerstone for performing arts in New Mexico, serving as the states’ largest theatrical venue, attracting world-renowned artists. Fine arts are a fundamental part of who we are as an institution, serving our community in a way no one else can.

I am pleased to invite you to the inaugural [Popejoy Awards](#) ceremony and performance, this Sunday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. The Tony Awards-style ceremony showcases the best of New Mexico’s high school musical theater talent, and I hope will encourage many of these students to continue their passion here at UNM. Tickets to the event are available through [UNM Tickets](#). Thank you to those who arranged the event. You are undoubtedly dedicated to the advancing fine arts and education in New Mexico.

## ArtsUnexpected

It was nearly impossible to not catch at least one art performance if you were on campus last Friday, thanks to the College of Fine Arts’ fourth annual [ArtsUnexpected](#). More than 250 performance transformed our campus into an extravagant venue featuring film, dance, theater, music and visual studio art. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Bob